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## Conversation timepiece

When Bloomington's second water reservoir was built near 82nd Street and Penn Avenue in 1969, Public Works Director Sam Hobbs and City staff suggested something out of the ordinary for the reservoir's roof. With City Council approval, assorted playground equipment, tennis and shuffleboard courts, and a sundial were installed on top of the two 10 million gallon underground tanks. Though most of the recreational equipment has since been removed, the granite and steel sundial remains.

Soon after installation, the Utilities Division held a contest to see who could find an oddity in the sundial; only one person did. Because a sundial tells standard time year round, during Daylight Saving Time it is necessary to add one hour to read the correct time. However, the inscription on the sundial reads, "For Daylight Saving Time Subtract One Hour." The oddity remains for astute observers to find and ponder.

The sundial is listed on the North American Sundial Society's national registry. To view, visit [www.sundials.org](http://www.sundials.org). ♦

## Facilities Update

# City Plaza landscape creates year-round color and texture

A natural setting surrounds Bloomington's government center. Native plants, trees, shrubs, a wetland, a pond and plenty of open space enhance Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, where the landscaping has created a park for residents to enjoy.

### West side -

#### A natural entrance

Resting atop the 30-foot cedar columns at the facility's west entrance is a 150-foot long trellis that suggests a high canopy in a Minnesota forest. The landscape below creates the forest floor with a variety of native shrubs and trees including quaking aspens, Norway pine, a juniper carpet, a large mass of blueberries and black-eyed Susans. Slicing through the landscaping is an arc of red twig dogwood and a bluestone path.



A towering canopy

### East side -

#### A more formal entrance

At the building's east entry, a grid of honey locust trees aligns with a double row of autumn blaze white ash trees that stretches 270 feet along the pond's north edge. The plaza outside of the Council Chambers features a stone seat wall and several large stone blocks that serve as benches. Ornamental grasses include little blue stem and blue fescue and a large Japanese Tree Lilac, Bloomington's official tree.



A grid of trees



A place for gathering

### Additional features

A Park and Art Design Task Force was formed to consider additional landscape enhancements at Civic Plaza. These may include:

- ◆ A memorial.
- ◆ A pond fountain or sculpture.
- ◆ Exterior signs.
- ◆ Additional plantings and landscape features including sculptures and artwork.
- ◆ Interior artwork and community display cases. ♦

### For information

Bloomington Civic Plaza houses Police and City administrative functions and Bloomington Center for the Arts. For more information, call Clark Arneson at 952-563-8921 or e-mail [carneson@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:carneson@ci.bloomington.mn.us).



A calm reflection

### The pond

A 1.5-acre pond features an edge of native wetland plantings along Old Shakopee Road that includes swamp white oaks, willows, tamarack and dogwoods. Stone walls align the west and north side of the pond to create intentional "urban areas." Paved and grass paths provide a walking loop of the pond, with space for a future memorial near its eastern corner.

### Outside amphitheater

Two long, stone seating walls mimic the arc of the building and face a small plaza space at the edge of the pond. The gently sloping lawn may be used for future performances.

**City of Bloomington**  
1800 West Old Shakopee Road  
Bloomington MN 55431-3027

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# Services that Strengthen our Community

## 1953-2003

### Bloomington Police celebrate 50 years of service



2003 Bloomington Police Department

*"It is important to recognize the past accomplishments of the Bloomington Police Department and use them as a catalyst for change and growth in future years."*

*John Laux,  
Police Chief*



1960s Traffic accident reconstruction



1950s Moir Police Office roll call

*Historic photos by Irv Norling, courtesy of the Bloomington Historical Society.*

*Mayor Gene Winstead*

Bloomington was a different place 50 years ago. Our streets had no stoplights and the western portion of the community was mostly farms and undeveloped land. But things were beginning to change for this village of 14,000 people. The number of residents had tripled in just 10 years and the community was on the verge of a population explosion.

#### A growing community

Many citizens felt the burgeoning metropolitan community needed a police force. They could not agree whether Bloomington should change from the constable system that was in place since 1858. Residents were also at odds with the \$2 a year cost to each taxpayer for police services. In 1953, after many debates, the Town Board appointed Clay Nord as police chief and hired three officers to form Bloomington's Police Department.

#### Protecting residents, visitors and workers

A half century later, Bloomington is a fully developed community and the Police Department's 114 sworn personnel serve 85,200

residents. With 7,300 hotel rooms, a daily workforce of 100,000 and 40 million visitors to the Mall of America each year, officers are busy with demands that couldn't be imagined 50 years ago.

#### Highly trained professionals

Our city has had the good fortune to be served by highly trained professionals over the last five decades. Bloomington Police Chief John Laux said professionalism in his officers begins with hiring and continues through training.

"First, we select the most qualified individuals through a very thorough screening process," Laux said. "Then, we maintain those credentials with a strong emphasis on training so that we are appropriately equipped and confident to handle any situation."

#### Public safety training facility

To keep up-to-date on the latest techniques in law enforcement, officers train regularly. A new facility, scheduled to open this fall, will better facilitate those training needs. The facility is a collaboration among Bloomington, Edina, Eden Prairie and the Metropolitan Airports Commission that will feature an indoor firing range, classroom space for police and fire personnel, and a defensive tactics training area.

Chief Laux said the new training facility is a great way to share costs and pool resources.

"By sharing expertise and skills of all agencies involved, we will get the best law enforcement practices of all

agencies," Laux said. "It will also help us keep abreast of emerging trends."

#### Built to better serve future

The opening of the Police facility at 1800 West Old Shakopee Road ushers in a new era of public safety services to the community. In May, Bloomington Police moved from their 18,000 square foot headquarters to the new 44,000 square foot facility that is built to better serve residents with:

- ◆ New technology to keep the department on the cutting edge of law enforcement.

- ◆ A state-of-the-art dispatch center to allow officers to respond quickly and efficiently to calls.

- ◆ Increased jail capacity and security.

- ◆ A record keeping system that makes files easier to maintain and recover.

#### Honoring those who serve

Since its inception, the Police Department has evolved to keep up with our city's ever-changing needs. The 50th anniversary celebration is a great way to honor those past and current officers who have made significant contributions. These individuals have dedicated their lives to providing professional, efficient and reliable services. Thank you for your commitment to our community. ◆



1960s Traffic duty

#### Bloomington City Council

**Mayor** **Councilmembers** council@ci.bloomington.mn.us



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*Photographs of elected officials are presented by the City of Bloomington for informational purposes only.*

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#### Directors

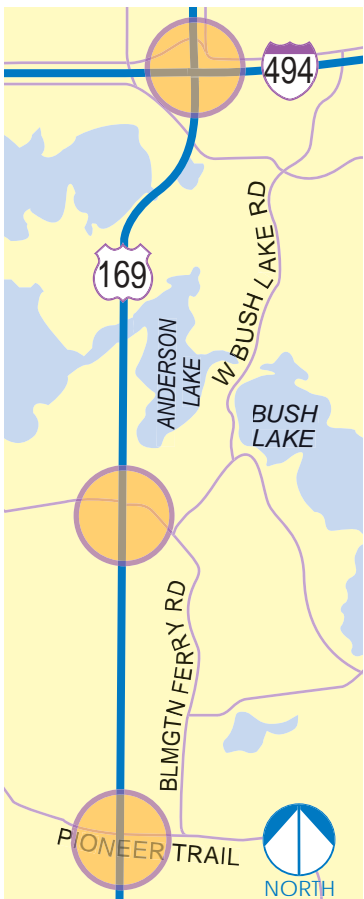
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Visit our Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us).

The **Briefing**, a bimonthly newsletter published by the municipal government organization of the City of Bloomington, Minnesota, is mailed to Bloomington residents and businesses. Direct comments or suggestions to Communications Administrator Diann Kirby, City of Bloomington, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; phone 952-563-8818; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; e-mail [dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us). If you require Braille, larger print or computer disk, contact Diann Kirby, 952-563-8818.

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## Road improvements moved to priority list

Commuters will experience some congestion relief now that the following road construction projects have been put on a priority list by the state. Road improvements along the TH169 corridor, slated to begin an average of five years earlier than scheduled, include:

- ◆ New interchanges at Bloomington Ferry Road and Pioneer Trail to eliminate stoplights and bridges over TH169 are to be built. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin June 2004.
- ◆ A rebuild of the I-494 and TH169 interchange is programmed as a design-build project to tentatively begin in 2006. Design-build, in which the contractor does the majority of the design as well as

construction, is beneficial because it speeds up project completion.

The road improvements are included in the Minnesota Department of Transportation's priority program and the state's bonding program. An Environmental Assessment has been completed for the TH169 corridor projects. Total cost for improvements is \$105.3 million.

For more information, call Wayne Norris, Minnesota Department of Transportation, at 651-582-1295. ◆



Nine Mile Creek

### Pond designed to improve water quality

In conjunction with construction on I-494, water quality improvements are underway to help keep pollutants out of our lakes, wetlands, rivers and creeks. The Minnesota Department of Transportation is constructing a storm water quality pond on the southeast corner of Normandale Boulevard and 84th Street.

Improvements include diverting the I-494 storm sewer into the pond so that water can be detained and naturally filtered as small particles settle to the bottom. The result is cleaner water entering Nine Mile Creek. The new storm water pond is scheduled for completion in spring 2004. For more information, call Jim Gates at 952-563-8730. ◆



## City wins two communications awards

The City of Bloomington recently brought home two awards from a national awards ceremony in Anaheim, California.

The 2002 *Bloomington Corporate Report* received an Award of Excellence (third place) from the City-County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA). "The information was easy to read. We liked the tie to dollars spent; cost-effective," noted the judges. "Captures growth and history very well. Readable, affordable!"

The City's Intranet site - "City BIZ" - also captured an Award of Excellence in the national competition. Judges called the internal Web site "a well-conceived product that provides the information most useful to their employees. The look is crisp."

3CMA's annual awards salute skilled and effective city and county communication efforts from around the country. ◆



## City decreases 2004 General Fund budget

Working to offset a loss of \$2 million in state aids, the City has decreased its 2004 General Fund budget. The City Council approved a preliminary general operating fund budget of \$42,672,482, a 3.9 percent decrease from the 2003 budget of \$44,420,999. City staffing levels will not increase for 2004.

### Preliminary levy

The Council has approved a preliminary levy of \$34,129,453 for 2004, a 5.75 percent increase from 2003. With the loss of market value credit from the state, the Council needed to increase the levy in 2004 just to achieve the same net property tax related revenues expected for 2003. The state, in order to help solve its budget problems, has cut aid to cities, shifting the budget-balancing burden to municipalities across Minnesota.

The preliminary levy can be reduced, but not increased, before final adoption in December. The City has traditionally made a reduction between preliminary and final levy adoption. The average annual increase in the City's levy from 1994 - 2003 has been 2.4 percent.

### Rising home values

Residential properties averaged a 9.9 percent increase in market value in 2003. The average home in Bloomington is valued at \$223,000, up \$20,000 from 2002. Monthly cost for City services will be under \$60 per month for the average Bloomington homeowner.

### City below levy limit

City staff uses a five-year planning model that considers both short-term and future needs of our community to recommend a preliminary levy. The preliminary levy is \$1.78 million below the maximum levy set by the state.

**Note: The Truth in Taxation Hearing is Monday, December 1, at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers. ◆**

## LRT on the move in Bloomington



A better light-rail connection to the Mall of America is on track to improve service to citizens and businesses. The new design puts the station directly at the Mall, a safer and more convenient stop for customers. Pending approval, construction on the realignment would begin this fall.

### Park-and-ride

Park-and-ride spaces would nearly triple with the new design. Approximately 500-600 parking spaces will be built at the 28th Street Station.

### 34th Avenue

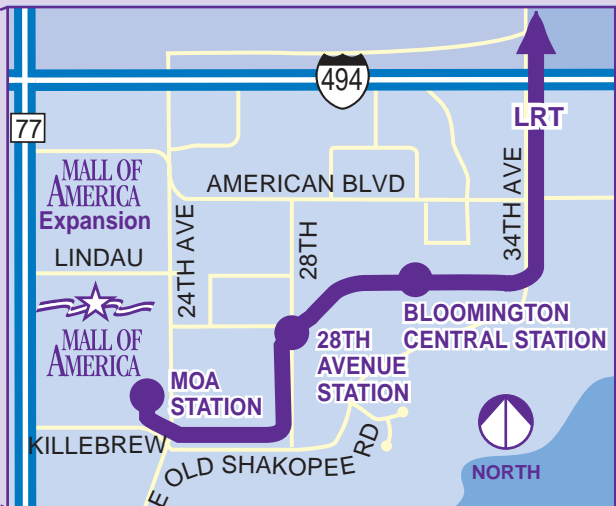
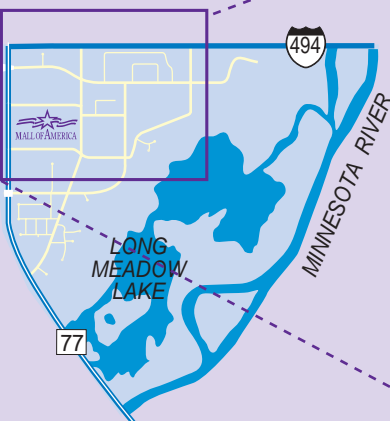
Construction began last spring to lay the track for the three stations in Bloomington.

According to the Hiawatha Project Office, 34th Avenue's permanent configuration with rails installed in the median will be completed by the end of the construction season.

### For more information

When finished, the LRT will connect downtown Minneapolis, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America. Partial service from downtown Minneapolis to Fort Snelling is scheduled to begin April 2004. Full service to the Mall of America is scheduled to begin December 2004. For information, call the Hiawatha Information Hotline at 651-284-0502 or visit [www.hiawatha-lrt.org](http://www.hiawatha-lrt.org). ◆

### Airport South District



## Visit your local fire station

The City's six fire stations will celebrate Fire Prevention Week with an open house on Saturday, October 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Activities and demonstrations will be featured along with t-shirts and temporary tattoos for kids. Fire trucks, police squad cars and Public Works equipment will also be on display.

For information, call Roxy Markkanen at 952-881-4062. ◆



### Station Address

Station	Address
#1	10 West 95th St.
#2	10601 Xerxes Ave. S.
#3	2050 East 86th St.
#4	4201 West 84th St.
#5	10540 Bush Lake Rd.
#6	8601 Lakeview Rd.



## Branching out – Your guide to tree care

It has been said, "The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now." Often planted to provide beauty or shade, trees also contribute to our quality of life and environment.

### Trees:

- ◆ Supply the oxygen we need to breathe.
- ◆ Cool the air by absorbing carbon dioxide.
- ◆ Decrease noise pollution by acting as sound barriers.
- ◆ Provide shade and shelter, reducing yearly heating and cooling costs.

- ◆ Provide food and shelter for wildlife.
- ◆ Stabilize the soil and prevent erosion.
- ◆ Enhance property values.

Fall is the perfect time to reflect on the beauty, necessity and management of trees. Proper care keeps trees healthy and strong so that we, and many generations to come, may enjoy their benefits.

*Reminder: When planting trees, call Gopher State One Call at 651-454-0002 before you dig.*

To exist as a nation, to prosper as a state, and to live as a people, we must have trees.

*Theodore Roosevelt*

When we use the tree respectfully and economically, we have one of the greatest resources of the earth.

*Frank Lloyd Wright*

I am myself and what is around me, and if I do not save it, it shall not save me.

*Jose Ortega y Gasset*

They are beautiful in their peace; they are wise in their silence. They will stand after we are dust. They teach us, and we tend them.

*Galeain ip Altien MacDunelmor*

### Fall tree care

Prepare your trees for the Minnesota winter by following these tips:

#### Prune

September through March is a low-risk time to prune trees, especially elm and oak trees.

#### Water

A dry summer, like this last one, can stress trees so that they may be adversely affected by winter; water until the ground freezes.

#### Mulch

Lay down a fresh layer of mulch to help maintain moisture and protect roots against extreme cold. Apply the mulch after a hard freeze so that the tree can become fully dormant and less susceptible to injury from the cold. ◆

### Diseased tree management

For more than 25 years the City has had a program to manage Dutch elm disease and oak wilt. In 1999, oak trees with two-lined chestnut borer infestation were added to the program. The City's certified tree inspectors check for diseased trees on both public and private property and mark trees that require removal.

**Property owners are responsible for the removal of diseased trees** and may use a contractor hired by the City or handle the removal themselves. The City only removes boulevard trees at no charge to the property owner. For more information, call 952-563-8760. ◆

#### Boulevard tree trimming

On a time available basis, Street Maintenance crews trim trees that interfere with the operation of snowplows and street sweepers. City ordinance states that the care and maintenance of boulevard trees is the responsibility of the abutting property owner.

#### County no longer accepts brush

The South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop Off Center, 1400 West 96th Street, no longer accepts brush. Small bundled brush, with branches that are less than three inches in diameter, will be picked up by your trash hauler if you subscribe to yard waste service. All brush, including larger branches, stumps and logs, can be taken to NRG Composting in Burnsville, 952-736-1915.

### Keep leaves out of the street



Leaves left in the street reach our lakes, rivers, creeks and wetlands via the storm sewer and release phosphorus as they decay. Even small amounts of phosphorous can cause increased algae blooms and excessive weed growth in lakes and ponds. Algae and weeds decrease water quality for plants, animals, and for people who use waterbodies for recreation.

Protect our water bodies by not raking leaves into the street. Follow these water-friendly tips when cleaning up leaves around your home:

- ◆ Compost leaves to provide rich organic matter for your lawn and garden.
- ◆ Chop leaves with your mower; a fine layer of leaves provides nutrients for your lawn.
- ◆ Use leaves as mulch for bushes and plants.
- ◆ As a last resort, bag leaves for pickup.

The City has brochures on purchasing and planting trees, insect and disease problems, and mature tree care. For information, call 952-563-8760. ◆

### Proper mulching tips

Mulching is one of the best things you can do for a tree to maintain moisture, improve soil conditions and minimize weeds.

- ◆ Mulch wide, not deep. Recommended depth is 2 - 4 inches.
- ◆ Do not pile mulch against the trunk; pull

mulch away from the tree, leaving a "pit."

- ◆ Use organic mulch, including wood chips\*, pine needles, cocoa hulls, compost mixes and leaves. They provide nutrients to the soil.
- ◆ Keep mulched area well drained.

- ◆ Use landscape fabric, not plastic, under mulch to allow water to penetrate but keep weeds from growing through.

\* Free wood chips are available at the Public Works Maintenance Facility, located on 105th Street and Hampshire Avenue. ◆

Did you know?  
Since 1998, Parks Maintenance staff has planted **900** trees throughout Bloomington.

Sources: International Society of Arboriculture and the Web sites: [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org), [www.savatree.com](http://www.savatree.com) and [www.cityofboston.gov](http://www.cityofboston.gov).